



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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BENNETT ANNOUNCES SUPPORT OF FEDERAL GUIDELINES FOR STEM CELL RESEARCH

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Senator Bob Bennett (R-Utah) today released the following statement in support of federal funding, under strict procedural guidelines, of stem cell research:

“I have delayed any public statement on stem cell research because I wanted to be certain of some details with respect to in-vitro fertilization procedures. I try not to over-emphasize personal experiences in making public policy decisions, but we are very close to this issue in our family; one of our daughters has used in-vitro procedures in an attempt to have additional children.

“From her experience, I have learned that all embryos are not ‘created equal’; some are healthy enough to have a chance of survival and some are not. Our daughter’s doctors were able to determine, in advance of implantation, which embryos were healthy enough to survive. Those that were not were discarded. She believes, as do I, that it would be wonderful if these non-viable embryos could be used to give hope to others suffering from life-threatening diseases rather than cast aside as useless.

“We should carefully and cautiously explore the promising potential of these non-viable embryos, particularly when past research suggests that significant medical breakthroughs can result. I do not support those private entities that are reportedly ‘harvesting’ embryos solely for their research value, with no consideration of the fact that they could generate life. Federal oversight of this process will help discourage such ‘harvesting’ of healthy embryos.

“Accordingly, I endorse the position of Sen. Bill Frist, a pro-life Republican from Tennessee and the Senate’s only physician, that federally funded research on embryo stem cells should proceed, under careful ethical and procedural guidelines.”

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